

# **WHOLESALE PLUNDER**

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**The McGreevy-Langevin Scandal  
at Quebec**

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**Nearly Two Millions Stolen from the Public**

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**Through the Connivance of Sir John's  
Minister of Public Works**

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**Thirty Thousand Dollars taken for a single  
Election of the Militia Minister**

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**Fifteen Thousand Dollars for his colleague's  
in the Local Legislature**

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**Frightful Revelations of Dishonesty and  
Corruption**

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**The Pacific Scandal Eclipsed**

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**Turn the Rascals out!**

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## *To the Electors of the Dominion of Canada.*

At this solemn crisis in the history of the Dominion, on the eve of a general election which for weal or woe will influence and shape the future of this young country, it is well that the electors should pause and seriously consider into whose hands they are about to commit their government and the management of their dearest interests during the next five years. The fiscal policy of the Dominion is undoubtedly a question of the most vital importance for its people, but it pales into insignificance before the necessity of having an honest administration of the country's affairs and the country's moneys. The countenancing of systematic dishonesty and corruption in high places would not be alone disgraceful to a Christian community, but it would be a direct encouragement to the repetition on a still bolder and more alarming scale of the gigantic frauds on the Canadian taxpayers, which have vexed the sight of God and man in this Dominion within the last ten years. The list of these, for which the Government at Ottawa are directly responsible, is too long to be here recalled, but the attention of every man who prizes the good name of this fair land and who desires to have honesty and incorruptibility in his rulers, is specially called to the latest and greatest scandal of them all—the gigantic frauds perpetrated on a trusting public in connection with the Quebec harbor works and the British Columbia graving dock and better known as

the "McGreevy-Langevin scandal." It is no exaggeration whatever to say that the revelations in this instance far exceed in gravity anything of the kind that, to our shame as a people, has yet developed in our midst, the Pacific and Rykert scandals not excepted.

For audacity of conception and magnitude of the frauds involved, the Quebec harbor works scandal is without a parallel in our history; and, though some of the incontrovertible proofs by which it is supported have already been published all over the land, it is well at this moment that the public memory should be refreshed in regard to it, especially as the conspirators, the very men who have been using their public positions of trust to plunder their fellow citizens in such a wholesale and barefaced manner are both, through themselves and their party candidates all over the Dominion, seeking to obtain, by the votes of the people, another lease of the power which they have so grossly misused to the public detriment. It should not be forgotten for an instant that the election of candidates pledged to the support of the Government of Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Hector Langevin, Sir Adolphe Caron and their colleagues means the endorsation of these frauds and an encouragement to the same men to repeat them with even greater audacity, magnitude and impunity in the future, until the name of Canada becomes a hissing and a by-word throughout the civilized world. It should also be carefully borne in mind that every dollar diverted by these public plunderers from its legitimate destination to their own pockets adds a dollar more to the already unbearable burthens imposed on the poor man and makes the Dominion from day to day a still more expensive and undesirable home for him to remain in. To throw dust in the public eyes, to triumph again, if possible, in their nefarious designs upon the pockets of the taxpayers, and to prevent investigation of their past misdeeds, the conspirators, headed by Sir John in Ontario, and by Sir Hector Langevin and Sir Adolphe Caron in Quebec province, are shouting treason on the part of their opponents, boasting their superior loyalty

and frantically waving the "Old Flag" No elector, possessed of ordinary intelligence, should allow himself to be influenced for a single instant by this miserable twaddle, which a famous English writerh as rightly termed "the last refuge of scoundrels", and the object of which is only too apparent. The true loyalty—it is respectfully suggested—is loyalty to the interests of the people of Canada, loyalty to their pockets, loyalty to honest and economical administration, and not loyalty to acknowledged self-seekers and plunderers, who are desecrating loyalty by debasing it to their own selfish purposes.

For a long time, it was suspected that the vast sums of money alleged to have been expended on the Quebec harbor works were not being spent on those works, but were finding their way to a large extent into the pockets of men in public position connected with the Government at Ottawa either for their own use or for the purpose of corrupting and debauching the electorate. It was noticed that these men, without visible business, were daily growing richer, while, through constant changes for the benefit of the contractors, the works were making little or no progress towards final completion. It was not, however, till 1887 that the first mutterings of the storm, which has since burst forth in all its fury, began to be heard. Some of the Opposition papers at Quebec and Montreal began to voice the suspicions, which were so persistently lurking in the public mind on the subject, but their statements were treated with contempt and silence. Matters remained in this way for three years more until the spring of 1890, when a fortunate event for the public, viz, a quarrel over the division of the spoils between the principal partners, occurred.

As the outcome of this quarrel, Mr. J. Israel Tarte, a Conservative journalist at Quebec and a man of great independence of mind and spirit, though a warm lover of his party, came into possession of undeniable proofs of the existence of an immense conspiracy, which had been successfully at work since 1882, with the connivance of a Minister of the Crown, Sir Hector Langevin,

Minister of Public Works, to plunder the public treasury, and as a first step towards ridding his party of the deleterious influence which was disgracing and ruining it, he published the following sworn declarations of Mr. Robert McGreevy and Mr. O. E. Murphy, another member of the contracting firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co :

#### STATEMENT OF Mr. O.- MURPHY

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I have been a member of the firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co. since.....our first work being the Graving Dock, at Quebec, Levis, a contract made with the Harbor Commissioners of Quebec.

In 1882, our firm made another contract for dredging in connection with the harbor improvements, with the Harbor Commissioners.

It was with this contract that I first became acquainted with Robert H. McGreevy (brother of the Hon. Thomas McGreevy, a member of the Harbor Commission, and a member of the House of Commons of Canada) and who became a partner with us (Larkin, Connolly & Co.) for the contract of dredging, becoming interested to the extent of 30 per cent. The Hon. Thomas McGreevy was aware of his brother's interest in the work ; an agreement in writing was made by Larkin, Connolly & Co. setting forth his interest.

1. In the spring of 1883, we (Larkin, Connolly & Co) tendered for the construction of the Cross Wall in connection with the Harbor Improvements; M. Robert McGreevy becoming interested to the extent of 30 per cent, by a written agreement signed by us all ; the Hon. Thomas McGreevy was aware of this before the tenders went in. We (Larkin, Connolly & Co.) became aware of the position we held as tenderers before being informed officially and governed ourselves accordingly by the withdrawal of John Gallagher's and G. Beaucage's tenders ; and in consideration of \$25,000 paid to R. H. McGreevy, in presence of the Hon. Thomas McGreevy, we obtained the contract.



This payment of \$25,000 was made in June, 1883, by promissory notes made by one member of the firm and endorsed by another, which notes were subsequently retired by the firm at maturity, and charged to expense account.

II. On or about the 23rd of June, 1884, Larkin, Connolly & Co. signed a supplementary contract for certain works for completion of the Graving Dock at St. Joseph, Levis, and erection of the caisson, with the Harbor Commissioners, for the obtaining of which contract Larkin Connolly & Co. paid the Messrs. McGreevy the sum of \$22,000 in promissory notes of one member of the firm to another, which notes were subsequently paid.

III. On or about November, 1884, Messrs. Larkin, Connolly & Co. signed a contract with the Department of Public Works of Canada for the erection and completion of the Graving Dock at Esquimalt, in British Columbia Mr. R. H. McGreevy being with his brother's, the Hon. Thomas McGreevy's, knowledge, a partner in the said contract.

That, immediately after the signing of the said contract I paid the sum of \$5,000 in promissory notes of Larkin, Connolly & Co for obtaining said contract and for his services to be given to have change made for the benefit of the firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co. and later on and to the end of the work, various large sums were paid to him or for him on said contract amounting in all (exclusive of R. H. McGreevy's share of the profits) to \$30,000, as per statement of the accountant of the firm.

IV. That on or about the month of January, 1887, on a proposition made by the Hon. Thomas McGreevy, our firm met and agreed to pay him (the Hon. Thomas McGreevy) the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) on condition of his obtaining for us 35c per yard for dredging the Harbor works to the extent of 800,000 cubic yards or thereabouts, instead of 27 cents, our contract average price. The money was paid most of it direct to himself, part through Robert H. McGreevy. I have seen a memorandum in pencil on the subject, among others, and I recognized the handwriting of Michael Connolly on



behalf of the firm. We received the 35 cents per cubic yard for dredging afterwards, beginning with the season of 1887.

V. On the 7th of August, 1887, the Hon. Thomas McGreevy came to me and stated that Sir Hector Langevin was going that evening and wanted money (\$5,000); I gave him \$1,000 and on the 8th of the same month he received \$4,000 from N. K. Connolly; this sum was charged in the books as appears by the accountant's statement, suspense account.

VI. That large sums of money were paid to the Hon. Thomas McGreevy, including special above set forth between 1883 and 1889, amounting to over \$100,000.

" VII. I also paid to.....two sums of \$5,000.00 each for these works, and my share of \$10,000 note by Nicholas K. Connolly to Sir Hector Langevin, as so stated by Connolly, which was paid out of the graving dock, Levis, all of which appear in the accountant's statement.

VIII. There was paid to the Hon. Thomas McGreevy, through Nicholas K. Connolly, \$3,000 on the 29th of December, 1883, or therabouts, charged to the British Columbia Dock.

IX. I paid, on or about March, 1886, to the Hon. Thomas McGreevy \$5,000; on this I have a letter of P. Larkin, dealing with that sum.

" X. The statement of the accountant shows \$3,646 paid to one inspector on the Harbor work dredging, \$1,560.00 to another and \$445.00 to a third; all the partners had to contribute their proportion to these payments."

I have a statement signed by the accountant of the firm setting forth all the payments, and others as above.

(Signed).

O. E. MURPHY.

#### **STATEMENT OF Mr ROBERT H. MCGREEVY**

I have read over the statement of O. E. Murphy, Esq, one of the firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co. for the various contracts of the Quebec Harbor Improvements and Graving

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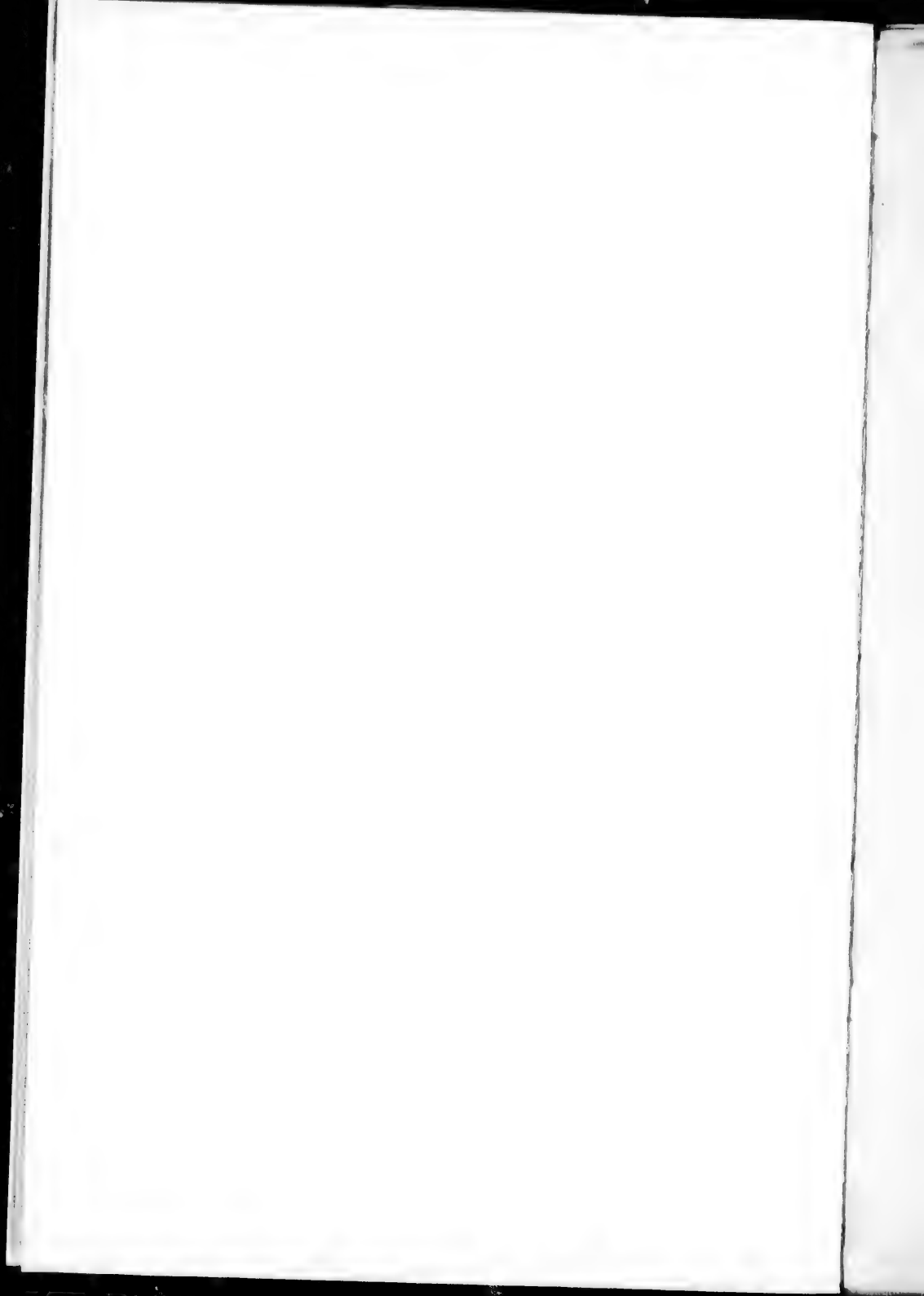
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Dock, British Columbia. I have a knowledge that all these statements are correct, and add the following :

To paragraph 1.—That I handed the twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in notes to Thomas McGreevy for his own use.

To paragraph 4.—That I handed ten thousand dollars (10,000) of this sum to Thomas McGreevy.

To paragraph 5.—I have no personal knowledge of this except that, on the statement of Messrs. N. K. Connolly and Owen E. Murphy, both members of the firm, the amount was charged in the books to suspense or expense account.

To paragraph 9.—Of this I know that it was charged in the accounts and I paid my proportion.

That I paid to Thomas McGreevy seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) out of my share received from the firm of those contracts and eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000) or thereabout from the other sums paid by the firm as stated by O. E. Murphy.

I know that since 1884 Thomas McGreevy has been the owner of the steamer *Admiral* subsidized by the Federal Government, and benefitted solely from the traffic earnings, the steamer being to the name of Julien Chabot, afterwards in mine and recently again to that of Julien Chabot.

It was to February 1888 that I got the steamer transferred to my name at the instance and for the benefit of Thomas McGreevy, and for the purpose of borrowing from Nicolas K. Connolly the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) which I handed to Thomas McGreevy. I have never received any of this subsidy.

(Signed) ROBERT H. MCGREEVY.

Now, what was the result of the appearance of these startling affidavits in the leading French Conservative

paper at Quebec? For some days, the principal culprit, Mr. Thomas McGreevy, M. P., tried the old game of treating them with contemptuous silence, but it would not work. Public indignation, the voice of public opinion, was too strong for him and, for very shame sake, he was at last forced to take a semblance of action to exculpate and set himself right before the public. He swore out warrants for criminal libel against Mr. Tarte, his brother, Robert McGreevy and Mr. O. E. Murphy. He made a pretence of employing the best lawyers in Quebec, to punish, he declared, his slanderers and to push the proceedings through as vigorously and promptly as possible. This was early last spring, but from that day, to this, on one pretext or other, by one artful legal manœuvre or another of his lawyers, the proceedings have hung fire, have been obstructed and delayed and the cases are still pending. Far from courting the thorough investigation and ventilation which he professed to be so anxious to obtain, he has endeavored in every way to avoid them. Was this the conduct of an innocent man anxious to clear his character for public honesty and probity? Certainly not. The same remark applies, too, to the civil actions of damages for libel which he also instituted against his accusers and which are also to-day no further advanced than they were last spring. In the action brought against him by Mr. Tarte to recover the penalty for illegally sitting in Parliament as a public contractor or as one having an interest in public contracts and subsidies, his conduct has been precisely the same. Instead of seeking to meet the issue squarely as an honest and innocent man would do, he has left no stone unturned to evade it. He has resorted to endless dilatory pleas, pleas to the form, and every other kind of legal quibble for the purpose, and to the demand for an investigation during last session of Parliament, he put in, through his colleague, Mr. Curran, a general denial of the terrible charges against him, coupled with an abject appeal to the pity of the House as the victim of the ingratitude of his brother and the man O. E. Murphy, for both of whom he could not find expressions too hard, though they had been

his confidential friends and business and boon companions for years, while the Government, on their part, pleaded the lateness of the session for not pressing for an enquiry, which events have since shown they never intended to grant, but rather intended to prevent at all cost.

The sudden dissolution of Parliament before its term and in defiance of the solemn promise made by a Minister of the Crown in the House to the representatives of the people that the general elections would not be brought on before the taking of the census and another revision of the lists was dictated by the same desire, to prevent the complete exposure of the Government and Mr. McGreevy's rascality that would be sure to take place if another session of Parliament was held before appealing to the people. If the reader will turn to the remarkable speech, which is also printed and circulated, and which was delivered by Mr. Tarte a few weeks since at the great Laurier demonstration in Quebec, he will find positive evidence of this, as well as of the criminal complicity of Sir John and his colleague, Sir Hector Langevin, as shown by the persistent way in which they ignored the charges and in which they endeavored to cloak Mr. McGreevy.

But to return to Mr. McGreevy. The solemn declaration, with which he attempted to deceive and mislead the House and country, was promptly shown to be a deliberate falsehood from beginning to end. His own letters, in his own handwriting, the letters of his accomplices in the contracting firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co. and in the Public Works Department at Ottawa were published and put in proof of this and no one has attempted or dared to attempt to deny their authenticity and force, for neither can be questioned.

Now, what is the situation of the affair to day? It has been fully and unmistakeably proved that the Public Works Department of the Dominion was handed over by Sir Hector Langevin to unscrupulous speculators; that a member of Parliament controlled and practically ran it for his own benefit and that of his accomplices; that he used the official paper of the Department for his corres-

pondence, that he dictated to his associates the way in which they should make their tenders, to the engineers what they should enter and omit in their reports and to the Minister himself how he should draw up the Orders in Council to plunder hundreds of thousand of dollars from the public treasury. And as this system has been practised for years, it is impossible to believe that frauds of the kind could have been perpetrated without the knowledge and consent of the Minister.

If these frauds do not constitute wholesale brigandage then words have lost their meaning. The conspirators operated, not only on the Quebec harbor works, but on those at Kingston and on those at Esquimalt, in British Columbia. They had ramifications in the public departments, in the offices of members and in the House of Commons. Mr. Tarte has in his possession and has published in his paper letters which incriminate a multitude of persons in high position among the Conservatives, from Sir Hector and the Government engineer, Perley, (since superannuated by the Government to get him out of the way) down to the members for British Columbia.

Tenders were put in for \$100,000 more than the value of the works to be done ; and the lowest tenderers were either elbowed out by some dodge or other or they were bought out and frequently not paid, as in the case of contractor Beaucage, at Quebec, who has been obliged to sue Mr. McGreevy to force payment of the amount promised him.

Not a contract was given unless the political influence of Mr. Thomas McGreevy and the other big bugs behind him was richly paid for, \$25,000 being the minimum price thus paid.

The works were prolonged eternally as it was much more profitable to the swindlers to keep them dragging on than to finish them. Changes and additions were made in the contracts, which brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars to the accomplices ; all kinds of costly experiments were made for which they were paid as extras ; the bottoms of rivers were actually paved with



Portland cement, thousands ; of cubic yards were added at increased prices to the dredging contracts; and no sooner was a dock or any other part of an undertaking completed than the contractors, inspired and assisted by Mr. McGreevy, with his backer at Ottawa, Sir Hector Langevin, started on agitation to have it enlarged and were invariably successful much to the augmentation of the plunder to be divided among the gang. These statements are not made lightly. They are proved and supported by the admissions of the conspirators themselves in their own letters and by the official records of the Public Works Department at Ottawa.

But where, it may be asked, did all the money go that was thus diverted from its legitimate objects and virtually stolen from the heavily burthened taxpayers of the Dominion ? Partly to supply funds to carry elections and debts in the electorate and partly into the pockets of the accomplices. And what role did Sir Hector play in the matter ? Is there any one so bereft of common sense as to believe that the infamies which were carried on in his own office, under his very eyes, were carried on without his knowledge ? Did he profit by them personally ? His accomplice says : Yes. He paid him \$15,000 on one occasion. And this evidence has been corroborated by another accomplice equally well informed, Mr. Valin, ex-Conservative M. P. for Montmorency and President of the Quebec Harbor Commission, who stated publicly on the 10th February instant that, to his knowledge, Sir Hector Langevin was the guiltiest of the gang, that he was in a position to prove that, it was, by Sir Hector's direct orders, that the Commission signed with Larkin, Connolly & Co. the contracts, by which they and their friends succeeded in plundering hundreds of thousands of dollars of the public money, of which Sir Hector was the guardian and trustee for the people of Canada, and that if Sir Hector knew all he could tell about him, he would not think twice about giving him \$10,000 to take a trip to the United States. Again on Sunday, the 22nd inst. the same Mr. Valin stated openly at a large public meeting in Montmorency county, for which he is actually run-

ning again as a pretended Independent Conservative candidate, that \$30,000 of the public money appropriated for the Quebec harbor works were taken to elect Sir Adolphe Caron for Quebec county in 1887, that \$15,000 more were taken to elect his colleague, Mr. T. Chase Casgrain, for the same constituency for the Local Legislature, and that a considerable sum also went from the same source to elect Mr. L. G. Desjardins, Conservative, for Montmorency, in 1890.

The question naturally suggests itself—to how much do the robberies amount in all? The thing is well known—that, for the Quebec harbor works alone, the port of Quebec is charged with a debt of nearly 5 millions and that the works done represent value for only about 3 millions, and when it is considered that the same gang operated in the same wholesale fashion on all works of the same nature executed since 1882 all over the Dominion, a faint notion can be formed of the vast and terrible extent to which the Canadian taxpayer has been plundered.

The incriminating papers and letters thus far published show the following amounts robbed to a certainty:

Since 1882, on all Larkin, Connolly & Co's contracts, 36 per cent .....	
In 1883, for the cross wall contract, paid to M. Thomas McGreevy .....	\$25,000 00
In 1884, to secure the completion of the Levis graving dock, paid to the Messrs. McGreevy. ....	22,000 00
In 1884, to secure the contract for the Esquimalt dock and to get it modified from time to time to suit the contractors..	30,000 00
In 1887, to get an increase from 27 to 35 cts. a yard on 800,000 cubic yards of dredging, paid to Mr. McGreevy .....	25,000 00
In 1887, PAID TO SIR HECTOR LANGEVIN on Mr. McGreevy' demand.....	5,000 00
Another sum paid to the same in consideration of the Levis graving dock contract..	10,000 00

In 1883, another sum of \$3,000 paid to Mr. McGreevy and charged to the British Columbia dock.....		3,000 00
In 1886, paid to T. McGreevy.....		5,000 00
Paid to the Dredging Inspector.....		3,646 00
To another official.....		1,560 00
To a third.....		445 00
Paid to T. McGreevy, through his brother, as his share of the profits .....		75,000 00
In 1888, paid to T. McGreevy on the transfer of the steamer <i>Admiral</i> .....		25,000 00
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		\$240,651 00
What the 30 per cent share imposed on Larkin, Connolly & Co., as the price of the Ministerial favors must have yielded.....		400,000 00
Profits on the increase in price of dredging 800,000 yards.....		82,000 00
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		\$786,651 00

This is the total as far as known or rather as far as shown by the documents yet published, but Mr. Tarte, at the public meeting in Montmorency on Sunday last, which Sir Hector Langevin, was invited to attend but took good care to absent himself from, as he did also on Tuesday, the 24th instant, from the meeting at Sorel, when Mr. Tarte was ready to confound him with the proofs of his complicity in the McGreevy frauds, publicly stated that he has and will publish in a few days proof that the total amount stolen is close upon, if it does not exceed, \$2,000,000 and that \$500,000 of the plunder came from the British Columbia dock alone.

In the face of these indisputable facts, in the presence of this frightful and alarming exposure of the immorality, dishonesty and utter rottenness of the present men in power at Ottawa, all party and other considerations should be set aside at this juncture and every honest elector in the Dominion should pause and consider well before giving his vote to any candidate pledged to the support of the present unprincipled Government, for to

do so will be to approve and endorse their wrong-doing and to encourage the continuance, perhaps, on a still larger and more audacious scale, of the through-paced rascality, of which the Quebec Harbor works only afford one illustration. Of the guilt of the accused conspirators, there can be no question. It is not only established beyond peradventure by authentic documentary proof, but by their every movement and by the present excitement into which they have plunged the Dominion to try to escape from the condign punishment of their crimes, while their defiance of public opinion emphasizes the urgent necessity for the Canadian people to guard against Thomas McGreevy in the future.

Quebec, 25th February, 1891.

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